This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal film according to claim 38 ~~30~~ wherein the substrate is a polymeric material.

32. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal film according to claim 31 wherein the substrate is a plastic sheet or film.

33. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal film according to claim 38 ~~30~~ wherein the substrate prior to its coating with the alignment layer or its precursor is subjected to a corona discharge.

34. (Currently Amended) A process of fabricating a homeotropically oriented liquid crystal film according to claim 38 ~~30~~ which comprises applying an aligning layer as defined in claim 38 ~~30~~ on a substrate.

35. (Currently Amended) An electrooptical system which contains a liquid crystal film according to claim 38 ~~30~~.

36. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal film as in claim 38 ~~30~~, wherein said aligning layer is a thin transparent Al_2O_3 coating.

37. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal film as in claim 38 ~~30~~ prepared from a ~~layer~~ mixture comprising ~~one or~~ more than one polymerizable mesogenic compounds.

38. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal film ~~as in claim 30~~ with homeotropic alignment wherein said homeotropic alignment is achieved by an

aligning layer on a substrate wherein said aligning layer is an Al_2O_3 layer with a surface sufficiently smooth such that liquid a crystal film formed thereon can be removed in one piece, wherein the liquid crystal film is prepared from a mixture comprising a reactive mesogenic ~~compounds~~ compound of formula I

$$P\text{-}(Sp\text{-}X)_n\text{-}MG\text{-}R,$$

wherein

P is a polymerizable group

Sp is a spacer group having 1 to 20 C atoms,

X is a group selected from -O-, -S-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O- or a single bond;

n is 0 or 1,

MG is a mesogenic or mesogenity supporting group, according to formula II

$$-(A^1\text{-}Z^1)_m\text{-}A^2\text{-}Z^2\text{-}A^3- \qquad II$$

wherein A^1, A^2

and A^3 are independently from each other 1,4-phenylene in which, in addition, one or more CH groups may be replaced by N, 1,4-cyclohexylene in which, in addition, one or two non-adjacent CH_2 groups may be replaced by O and/or S, 1,4-cyclohexenylene or napththalene-2,6-diyl, it being possible for all these groups to be unsubstituted, mono- or poly-substituted with halogen, cyano or nitro groups or alkyl, alkoxy or acyl groups having 1 to 7 C atoms wherein one or more H atoms may be substituted by F or Cl,

Z^1 and Z^2 are each independently -COO-, -OCO-, CH_2CH_2-, -OCH_2-, -CH_2O-, -CH_2=CH-, -C≡ C-, -CH=CH-COO-, -CO-CH=CH- or a single bond, ~~and~~

m is 0, 1 or 2, and

R is an alkyl radical with up to 25 C atoms which may be unsubstituted, mono-or polysubstituted by halogen or CN, it being also possible for one or more non-adjacent CH_2 groups to be replaced, in each case independently from one another, by -O-, -S-,-NH-,-N(CH_3)-, -CO-, -COO- -OCO-, -OCO-O-, -S-CO-, -CO-S- or -C≡ C- in such a manner that oxygen atoms are not linked directly to one another, or alternatively R is halogen, cyano or has independently one of the

meanings given for P-(Sp-X)$_n$-.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal film ~~or layer~~ according to claim 38 ~~1~~ wherein the surface of the smooth Al_2O_3 layer is smoother than aluminum oxide coatings obtained by evaporation methods or sputtering.

41 (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal film according to claim 38 ~~or layer with homeotropic alignment,~~

~~wherein said homeotropic alignment is achieved by an aligning layer on a polymeric substrate,~~

~~and~~ wherein ~~said aligning layer is an~~ the Al_2O_3 layer has ~~with~~ fewer pores than aluminum oxide layers prepared by evaporation methods or sputtering.

42. (Cancelled)